

THE
LAWYERS
LAST FAREWELL,

OR,
The Poor Man's freedom
ENLARGED.

Containing the Regulating of the

LAW

For the good of the FREE-BORN People of
ENGLAND.

Together with a right choosing of
Men to be employed therein for the good of the
People of this Nation.

Prov. 14. 34.

*Righteousness exalteth a Nation.
And if Righteousness, then Justice.*



LONDON:

Printed for Robert Elms. 1652.

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WYLL
EAST FARREWELL

OR
The Poor Man's Friend

Containing the Regulations of the



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together with a list of the

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THE
LAWYERS

Last Farewell:

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The Poormans Freedom enlarged.

ENglish subjects, and fellow Countrey men,
rejoyce and sing, to see such blessed times of
so happy a Reformation. For behold the Law
Regulated, Corruption banished, and Ju-
stice running down the Street like a mighty
streame.

Now Gentlemen Lawyers where are you you that have
for so long a time strutted ieup and down the Temple
and other Courts of Iniquity, with your long sided
Gownes, and your flat bottom Caps, like so many
Rooks waiting for your prey, daily contriving how to
inrich your selves, and to impoverish the Common-
wealth, or like Water Pots which only refresh your
own ground, when alas you ought to be like showers of
Balne which inrich their Neighbours as well as them-
selves.

Hath not this Nation had wofull experience of your long Continued unhard of Oppression, Cruelty, and Deceit, you Lawles Lawyears it is you that I speak to you that could so Unlawfully Deferre a mans cause from Terme to Terme, deceitfully smothering a man UP still in his Cause so long as his Money lasted, and in the end hee may have what hee List for your Paines.

How many honest Countrey Gentle-men have come up to Terme with Money in their hands for Justice and behold nothing but deceit and guile,

Through a Company of corrupt fellows, that have been imployed in the Law, minding their own ends, and not the good of their clients.

What necessity was there I wonder (let any honest man judge) That a mans Cause should be put off from Terme to Terme, for Seven Yeares together, and it may be more if his money would hold out.

For he that had the most Money, was kept the longest in the Lawyers Clutches; For ever observe, A Lawyer cares not for keeping a Client any longer in hand then his Money lasteth.

An old Usurer in Long-Lane, having lent more money to a Broker then he knew how to get againe, did run in all haste to a Lawyer, desiring to be instructed how to recover his Money again; so the Lawyer told him, he would either make the Broker pay him his Maney again, or else he would force him to sell al his Second suits he had in his Shop, but in the conclusion, both the Usurers and the Broker were so intangled in the hands of the Lawyers, That
when,

when all their Money was gone, they were forced to be Friends for want of Money to maintain the Lawyers, and that Man that can deceive either Broker or Usurer, is cunning enough to encounter with the Devil.

How many years together have the People of this Nation lived under the Tyranny of the Lawyer, who through corruption have oppressed the poor with Deceit, Couzenage and Lies, telling fair stories of Justice, when in stead thereof, nothing but their own private ends, and false Bribes regarded: thus hath the pure Law been corrupted, defiled and abused through unjust Lawyers, base and deceitfull dealings; Well then Lawyers, be honest for shame, leave off your cunning fraude and deceit, suffer not your Credit and Reputation utterly to fall, for as sure as there are Knaves amongst you, so sure shall *That which is not of God perish and come to decay*: And if any reasonable honest man will say, *That Oppression, Fraud, Deceit, Guile, taking of unlawfull Bribes, and such like corruption be Lawfull, the Lawyers are all true men; otherwise what you please.*

When the Scribes and Pharisees in the Gospel had laid a Plott to betray our Saviour Christ, they could not proceed on in this their wicked Designe, before they had chosen a Champion, or a ringleader, and who must be the man but *forsooth an Expounder of the LAW*, a Man as fitting for that Designe, as though they had sent for the Devil himself, and truly I heard a Gentleman say, that had wasted his Estate among the Lawyers, *That he should think himself a happy man if he should dye the same day that a Lawyer dyed on*, for, quoth he, *the Devil will be so busy with the Lawyer, that happily I may escape his clutches.*

But Mr. Lawyers, here's a new Order to be taken with you, you must all be confin'd to more honesty, or else to leave your Places, for the Law must be *Regulated*, and honest men placed therein; no more Knavery now, for corruption must be quite cashierd, and Justice placed in stead thereof, to the everlasting comfort of the Free-born People of England.

Besides

Besides all Courts, as the Upper-Bench, Chancery, Common-Pleas and all other Courts of Justice whatsoever, must be now translated, and confined into a narrower compass, so that whereas a man formerly was forced to run from Court to Court with his cause in his hand, seeking and enquiring for Justice, but behold he shall now finde it in the first Court he comes at, and there make an end of his business; without any demures at all: I wish no worse news may come to the Town.

All Judges, Councillors, Attorneys: together with all other Court Attenders, as under Clerks, and all sorts of Pettyfoggers whatsoever, shall be limited, and tied to a certaine Fee, not exceeding the same, under forfeiture of five pounds upon every offence committed by any of the aforesaid Officers, who shall be intrusted in the Law for the right Administring thereof, as well to the poor as the rich.

As for example, The Judge three shillings four pence, the Councillour two shillings, and the Attorney one shilling and four pence, Writts and all other matters whatsoever that shall bee depending thereupon, discharged.

So that a man may now have a suit at Law tried for six shillings and eight pence completely: Frivolous Writts and all other superfluous matters being quite abolished.

Further it is ordered also, That because the Commonalty of this Nation shall be freely discharged from all superfluous charges in the Law, there shall be chosen for that employment of the best and ablest men, and not to ignorant, silent, relations, seekers; neither shall any be preferred for gifts or brokage, for favour or affection; nor any that seeks for the place through his own or another mans means, but that all Judges, Councillors, Attorneys, or any other Officer in Law whatsoever, be men of the best, most Lawfull, and sufficient, according to estimation and Knowledge, which holds forth clearly, that

that all Officers in the Law be as the *Scripture* calls them, *Able men fearing God, men of Truth, and hating Covetousness.*

For to put an ignorant man to be an officer in the Law is as though wee should put a shoemaker to make a mans apparell; or a Taylor to make a pair of shoes: and indeed this thing called ignorance together with selfe-indednes, hath been so common amongst our Lawyers of late, that the custome of Iniquity quite took away the *Practice of Piety*, whereby the truth was much obscured with the cloud of corruption, and the common People deluded by the Lawyers Knavery.

Neither shall any Officer employed in the Law remain in his place above four *Terms*, but we shall have new Judges, new Councillors, new Attorneys, all new men & thus men too; this will be a brave thing indeed! it is enough to make a blind man leap out of his skin for to see it.

No, a man shall not stay so long in his place now to learn Knaverie, and then to be sure wee shall not be troubled with Knaves.

Now Corruption do thy worst; affront us againe if thou canst call up thy associates, all the false-hearted Lawyers and thy great master the Devil; abandon your selves in your fury, and see if you can enter our Courts of Justice now; no, no, they are so guarded with Truth and honesty that it is time for Knaves now to looke about them.

Here will be no need now for Lawyers to have their decoy Ducks (as they have formerly had) such as Billingsgate Oyler-wives, and street-walking wenches, or any other idle persons whatsoever, to send abroad to pick quarrels, purposely to bring them in custome; no, Lawyers will not now get so much by the bargain, for indeed wee shall have such Lawyers now, that will not stand in need of a poore mans money, for they shall be all landed men, able to bear there owne Charges.

And

And now you that have been Unjust in the Law looke about you for truth is Coming to towne, and she will make such a to all route amongst Knaves, that som of you will be forced to sel your Gownes to the brokers for money to beare your charges home to your friends.

But Lawyers lesse: tell you, that a civil Coate and an honest hart would becom you better: then such ranting flouting long sided gownes, which serve onely to hide your knavery, and also for a signe whereby knaves may be knowne from true men.

Therefore let all men hereafter heartily praise GOD that the Lawyer now; to all his deceit, Fraud, and cosenage, to all false bribes, and deceisfull dealings, hee bids a small Farewell.

An Author tells me of a Suit depending between two Families in *Gloucestershire*, ever since the Reign of Ed. the 4. and not till very lately composed, which certainly must be ascribed either to the ambiguity of the Law, or the subtilty of the Lawyer (I suspect this rather, for as one sayes, the Laws are in *Calamo Virgines in Foro meretrices*), neither of which are any great Honour to the *English Nation*; How much better were it to spend the acuteness of the mind in the reall, and substantiall wayes of God, and benefit to our selves and others, then to unbowel our selves in a meer web, a frothy and contentious way of Law, which the oppressed stands no more in need, then the tender-hearted Christian of *Thomas Aquinas* to resolve him in his doubts?

Memorable is that passage of K. *James* in *Star-Chamber*; In Countreies (saith he) where the formality of the Law hath no place (as in *Denmark*) all their State is govern'd by a written Law, there is no Advocate, or Proctor admitted to plead, only the Parties themselves are admitted to plead their own Cause; The Law-book is their onely Judge. This is an honourable work for a State to clear the Channel of the Law.

